

# IN THE BEGINNING

## Your Car is Safe



## If Left in Our Garage

and if it needs adjustment of any kind or repairs our mechanics will put it in first class order and in a remarkably short time.

You can take in the big Chautauque attractions with complete enjoyment knowing that when you are ready to start home your car will be in readiness.

We make a specialty of automobile and machine work.

Remember we are agents for E. M. F., Flanders, Brush and Buick and will be glad to demonstrate them. Learn of you about the many exclusive features that have contributed to the ascendancy of these cars.

For the next sixty days we will furnish you gasoline for 15 cents per gallon and batteries for 20 cents each.

## Patterson & Patterson

Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 14 - No. 55

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 14 - No. 55

July, 1981

*Lester A. Harding, Editor*

### Editor's Notes —

After 13 years of publishing this quarterly the printers have made a raise to keep up with the inflation that has hit them for quite some time. It is the postage rates that have caused the largest reason for the raise in the subscription price for In The Beginning. The postage rates have almost doubled and we can send it for the same price as first class (unless it changes again.)

At the present time we are planning on this quarterly to \$4.00 for a year or \$1.00 a single copy.

We regret very much to make a raise, but we must try and make it pay its way. As we said in the last issue this would not be possible if it was not for the Patrons listed in the back page.

\* \* \* \* \*

The cover picture of Patterson and Patterson was Wm. Patterson, perhaps better known in later years as Bill Pat, and his son Earl were the owners of this garage that was situated just to the west of the Woodson Hotel where the Welfare office is now located.

J.C. (Jim) Schnell was one of their mechanics for awhile. The Buick is the only one of their cars still in production. The E.F.M., Flanders and Brush may be found in antique shows. We were told that Ed Kimbell had one of these E.M.F. cars around 1910-12. His friends referred to it as the Early Morning Failure.

This garage was started in 1910. And not very long Roy Mertz was taken in as a partner. The first garage was a large barn that had been used for horses and buggies.

The first filling station was a 100 barrel tank on the outside of the old barn and Alex Pierce filled it with a five gallon can. On the inside a five gallon can was used to drain out and pour in the cars. This was perhaps the first 'filling station' in Yates Center. Pictures taken 1912.

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## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1968

The March, 1981 meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held on Saturday evening of March, instead of the fourth Tuesday. We were somewhat confused until we found out it was a surprise meeting for my wife Edith and myself. More about this will be found on pages 13 and 14. It was a very surprising and enjoyable evening.

\* \* \* \* \*

There were around ten people met at the Museum for a 'Clean-Up' getting ready for the opening up of the Museum. It was opened up for Saturday afternoon, with about ten visitors calling. Sunday, May 24, was advertised as Open House Day. There were 84 signed the register on Sunday afternoon. On Monday, Memorial their were around twenty signed the register.

\* \* \* \* \*

### IN MEMORIAM

Wilbur Smith

53

January 23, 1981

Mr. Smith was not a native of Woodson County, but had been in the furniture and undertaking business for several years. He held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

James J. Pringle

82

April 10, 1981

Better known as Jim, Mr. Pringle had spent most of his life in Woodson County as a rancher and cattleman. While never attending the Society meetings, he had been a member for several years.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the July, 1981, meeting at the Woodson House, a memorial service was held for Walter Beine, Helen Bicknell, Wilbur Smith and W. J. Pringle. These were the members lost by death since the last Memorial Day.

This memorial service was in charge of Mrs. Betty Collins and Mrs. Phyliss Gustin. Both from Toronto, but officers of the Woodson County Historical Society.

An unusual program is being planned for the July meeting. It would be held in the United Methodist Church. A pioneer picture is to be shown.

\* \* \* \* \*

### JOIN AND SUPPORT THE

### WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00

### Benjiman Franklin Stewart and Family —

Benjiman Franklin Stewart was born May 22, 1848, and died in 1933. His parents were William Wallsa Stewart and Lydia Ellinor Baldwin, who were married July 4, 1826. Their oldest son, Benjiman Franklin is the oldest of six children, and was born in East Monroe, Ohio.

As a young man he came to Kansas settling down and working at Burlington. Here he became acquainted with and married a young lady, Miss Minerva Naylor, on September 23, 1877.

Minerva, known to many including the writer as Aunt Nerva, was born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, which is in the center of the "Dutch" country there. Her parents were George and Anna Stevick Naylor, although at that time the name was spelled Nailor. Minerva Catherine was born August 11, 1857. She was the youngest of eleven children. When about a year old the Nailors decided to move to northeastern Indiana near Leo, Indiana.

When Minerva was about twelve years old, she and her older sister Sarah came to Kansas with their Uncle and Aunt Samuel Nailor and family. Their mother Anna Stevick Nailor passed away in 1860. Minerva's sister Sarah married Enoch Tebben and sometime later Minerva was married to Benjiman H. Stewart, September 23, 1877.

While living at Burlington, their oldest children were born. George W. was born in 1878, Roy Russell was born, October 19, 1881.

Pearl was born on a farm near Burt, Kansas, June 8, 1885. In later years she was married to Milan Clugston. Pearl lived with her father, keeping house for him. She worked for some time in a cigar factory, we believe in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

James Jackson Stewart was the youngest of the family of Benjiman and Minerva, and was born on the farm to the west of Burt.

George was married to Effie J. Mulsow, Feb. 22, 1906. They were the parents of two children, Tresa and Verne.

Verne O. was born January 1, 1912, and died August 28, 1915. He was buried in the Askren where his parents were later buried.

Tresa was born on the farm north of Burt. She was born April 5, 1910. On March 12, 1930 Tresa was married to Glenn Reno. They were the parents of two daughters, Delores (Troxel) and Sharen (Krause). Glenn Reno died on March 12, 1958.

James Jackson Stewart was born on the farm to the west of Burt. He was the youngest child of Ben and Minerva Stewart, being born August 14, 1888.

James Jackson was married to Miss Lura Ethel Rayborn December 25, 1910. Lura was a daughter of Wm. G. and Sarah J. Turpin, who were married Dec. 17, 1884. The Rayburns were natives of Iowa, and moved here in November, 1904.

All of the Stewart boys were married and lived on farms close to the Burt community.

32 year old James Jackson contacted appendicitis and died, leaving Lura with three small children. Gerald Eugene, born Nov. 26, 1911, Velda Althene, born July 29, James Jackson, born May 14, 1918. Marvin Rayborn was born Jan. 7, 1921, several months after his father had died in August 13, 1920.

Gerald was married to Anna May Richards, Sept. 26, 1935. Velda A. married Edward Scheibmeir, October 12, 1938, James Jackson married Dorothy Sherwood, May 24, 1941 and Marvin R. married Georgia Stevens, November 10, 1945.

\* \* \* \* \*

After the death of James Jackson, Lura's father, Wm. Rayborn moved to the farm, to help raise some of the children.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1900 Burt was a thriving community with two stores side by side. This same spring J. F. Whitaker put out a huckster wagon run by Beal Manifold. To hold their trade Randall and Old started started a huckster wagon run by Roy Stewart. A wagon borrowed from Curt Harding was fixed into a huckster wagon with a cover made of canvas and buggy top material. Shelves lined the sides. A measure was fastened on the door of the covered wagon to measure calico on.

Of times when Roy left Burt, his wagon had more goods and groceries in it than was left on the shelves of the store. Roy would make a two day trip going by way of Keck and staying all night at the James Morgan home. The next day he would go though the Russian settlement of Nikkeltown. The next day he would go along Duck Creek and over Coffey County. The huckster wagon would invoice about \$40.00 a week. Although the huckster wagons did not last long there was a great deal of excitement while they lasted. There was usually a race between the two hucksters every morning to see who could get away from Burt first. And of times a horse race to see who would get to the first house. For awhile there seemed to be too many huckster wagons in the vicinity and one by one they dropped out till Roy Stewart had the field to himself. After about ten months this wagon was discontinued.



Roy Russell Stewart was born at Burlington, Kansas. October 19, 1881. When about seven years old Roy moved with his parents to a farm along Jordon Creek, about two miles east of Nikkeltown. Benjiman purchased this 80 acres from the State of Kansas, (School Land) for \$240.

This was March 26, 1883, receiving the patent for this south half of the southeast quarter of section 36, Twp. 23, Range 14. Several years later Benjamin sold out to Mrs. M. E. Johnson. Johnson.

Roy R. Stewart married Nellie Mabel Richards on November 4, 1902 at El Reno, Oklahoma. They were the parents of eleven children, two passed away as infants. In 1913, Roy with his family moved back to Woodson County, from there the Stewart family moved to a rented farm eight miles due north of Yates Center on a farm owned by W. E. Hogueland, a well-known lawyer and real estate dealer. Roy Stewart and family lived on this farm for 34 years, renting it year after year. While living here the two story house was burned to the ground. With the children all married or moved away, Roy and Nell moved to Yates Center in 1948.

Roy passed away Oct. 1, 1952, and Nell died Dec. 25, 1965.

Their children were: Arthur W. born Nov. 10 - died April, 1910.

Oliver Russell (Strut) born Mar. 29, 1911 in El Reno, Ok, died June 1, 1979. He was married to Florence Craig, Feb. 1936.

Cleo Valera, born Aug. 28, 1913. Died Sept. 21, 1960. Cleo was married to Hugh Edwards, Jan. 14, 1933.

Beatrice Iphegene, born March 8, 1915, married Charles Peek, Nov. 1, 1940.

George Benjamin, born Nov. 24, 1916. Died July 5, 1979. Married Thelma Jane Wilson, July 13, 1946.

Mary Catherine, born Nov. 25, 1917. Married John Bradford Hedrick, April 4, 1936.

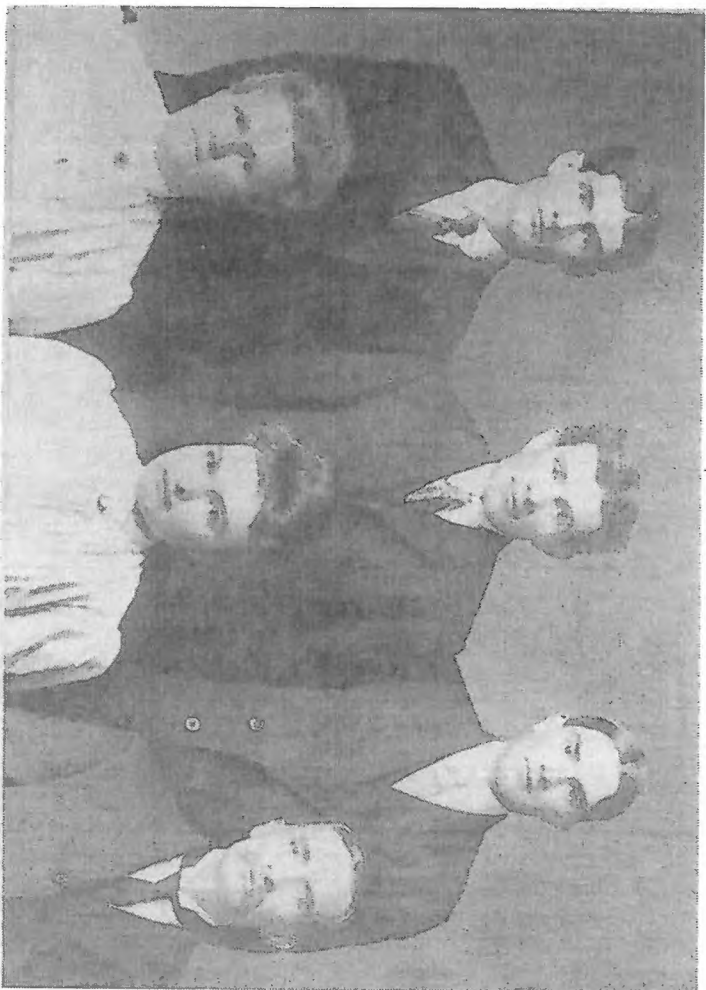
Mabel Irene, born Jan. 1, 1919. Married Henry G. Lendle, March 4, 1949.

Roy Junior, born April 3, 1920. Married Margaret G. Jones, Nov. 25, 1948.

Johnnie Wesley, born Feb. 8, 1923, died Feb. 24, 1923.

Orville Eugene, born Sept. 3, 1924. Married Dorothy Jean Reno.

Jessie Pearl, born Sept. 6, 1926. Married Francis Yokum, Oct. 1945.



**Back row: (Left to right) Roy Stewart, George Stewart, and Jack Stewart.**  
**Front row: (Left to right) Minerva Stewart, Pearl Stewart (Clugston), and Benjamin Franklin Stewart.**

## ONLY TWENTY FIVE FILLING STATIONS —

Yates Center News, April 3, 1936 —

For a town its size Yates Center has its full quota of service stations. The city has probably as many gasoline pumps per capita as any other city in the state. There is a total of 25 filling stations, 16 of which are located on Mary Street (Highway 75). Here are the stations and the kind of gasoline they sell, beginning at the west end of Mary Street:

Campbell Garage - Sinclair

T. E. Ketchum - Vickers

Bell and McCall - Phillips

Lopp Bros. - Standard

Security Oil Co. - Under Const.

Megli's - Cities Service

Stockebrand Station - Shell

Winn Station - Cities Service

Lopp Bros. - Phillips

Ibbetson Station - Skelley

Coleman and McKenney - Diamond

Shultz Station - Texaco

Tom Bell Station - Marathon

Oschies Station - Conoco

Standard Oil Co. No. 1

Alvis Service Station - Skelly

Motor Inn Garage - Phillips

H. F. Wachtman - Conoco

McBride Motor Co. - Shell

Gresham Station - Sinclair

Opperman-Lauber - White Eagle

Mahon Motor Co. - Skelly

McCormicks Garage - Conoco

McConnell Station - Skelly

There are a few desirable corners left in town and should the plans for the proposed underpass go thru we will probably see at least three new filling stations spring up. (Highway 75 at that time came from the south and turned east on Mary Street to State and went north to the old Washington School then west to where the highway is now. It seems that in the plans to rebuild US-75, there would be an overpass going over US-54. Instead the stop signs were placed there and were the cause of many wrecks through the years. The four way stop has cut down on the wrecks at that corner.)

At the present time there are only six station pumps and they are four of those that have self-service pumps.



## THE R. L. BEDFORD FAMILY —

Robert Lee Bedford was born near Warrensburg, MO on April 4, 1870. As his father was a stockman and farmer Robert L. was brought up on the farm. He was the youngest of seven children. His father had died when he was a small child. His early life was largely spent in caring for his mother, as the older children had left and gone into business for themselves.

Robert Lee Bedford was married to Miss Ada Mitchum of Sedalia, MO on March 24, 1894. They were the parents of two children, a girl and boy. The girl died when she was about three months old. The boy was Robert Irvin, who grew up in Yates Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Bedford lived at Sedalia, St. Louis and Warrensburg, MO, during the first eight years of their married life. Bedford was largely engaged in the livery business. We will introduce here a man that will be remembered by the older generation as Joe Ridgeway, who had a popcorn and peanut wagon on the square.

Ridgeway had been in Yates Center and learned about the T. L. Reid Livery Stable and thought it possible that Bedford might have a chance of owning a first class livery stable. Mr. Reid also operated the Woodson Hotel.

Both men seemed agreeable to do some trading. A deal was worked out between T. L. Reid and R. L. Bedford on May 4, 1902, with the family moving here in June of that year. The paper drawn up at that time was as follows.

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS.** That R. L. Bedford has this day sold to T. L. Reid his farm of 200 acres lying 2½ miles north of Hatton, in Callay County, MO, and known as the Gus Fry Farm. Subject to a mortgage of \$3000, with 6% interest from this date, said farm being the farm shown T. L. Reid by R. L. Bedford on May 4th, 1902, and also the following property, to-wit:

Two big 4-year old mules, one 15½ hands high, 4 year old mule, one 7-year old bay horse, 1 lumber wagon, 2 cultivators, 2 sets of harness, 1 cow and calf, 9 hogs, chicken and turkeys on said farm and also all the growing crop on the farm. All said property to be free and clear of all encumbrances and liens except said \$3,000 above mentioned.

Said Bedford is to receive from said T. L. Reid in full consideration for said property above described the following personal property, to-wit:

2 best buggies (one Timkin and one Henney), 5 buggies (3 Henney and one Henney), 5 buggies (3 Henney and one Henney), 2 road wagons, 2 surries, 2 carriages, one wagonette,

Two spring wagons, 1 picnic wagon (3 seat), two busses, 1 cab, 1 breaking cart and harness. One dray wagon, 1 hay and manure wagon, Nettie and Topsy, 1 span brown mares, Bob and Fox, 4 black horses (Sal & Prince), one white horse, 1 black stallion, 2 ponies Billie & Toney, 1 gray team, Prince and Dan, 11 lap robes, 7 fall and spring robes, 2 goat hair robes, 14 blankets, (horse), 3 cots, 4 lanterns, 2 scoops, 4 forks. All netting except 7 nets, and plush robes.

A leather halter to go with each horse above mentioned. Said property to be free and clear of liens or encumbrances whatsoever.

It is further agreed that said T. L. Reed will rent to said Bedford his livery stable in Yates Center, Kansas for \$40.00 per month, payable monthly, for the term of one year, with the privilege of three years, said Ried to furnish water and pipe water into said barn as the same now is. Said Bedford to properly protect and care for said barn and keep clean and free from filth and dirt.

\* \* \* \* \*

This livery stable was located along State Street between the alley and railroad track. The barn was 30x30 feet and the house had four rooms.

We mentioned above about Joe Ridgway, who came to Yates Center with the Bedford family. Mr. Bedford fixed a pop corn and peanut machine for Ridgway in the corner of the livery where Joe started his business. Later he had his own little wagon that he would pull to the west side of the square next to the curb, where he became a very familiar figure on the square in Yates Center. He lived in a small building across the street from the livery stable, just to the north of the Hotel Woodson.

Along in the fall of 1911, Robert Bedford sold out his livery and feed business and ventured into another line of business. At that time he helped organize the State Exchange Bank for Yates Center. He was cashier and general manager of this bank for the first year and half of its existance. In the summer of 1913, he organized the Toronto, Kansas State Bank and was elected as its President just a few days before he was stricken with his fatal illness. He died on a Monday evening, September 1, 1913 at the age of 43 years. He was confined to his bed only ten days before he died.

R. Irwin Bedford married Mona Easum, Robert and Melba Jane. They have spent most of their married life in California.



**Robert Lee Bedford**

**married 3-21-1894**

**Miss Ada Michum**





**Team and Deliver Cab owned by R. L. Bedford  
Driver: R. L. Bedford, Front seat Dimple and Irma Lewis, Rear seat  
Margaret Templeton and Mrs. Athey.**

REPORT OF DISTRICT Clerk to County Superintendent of Public Instruction. From Associate School District No. 3, counties of Greenwood and Greenwood.

Number of children residing in the district in Woodson Co. over five and under the age of twenty-one years. Number who have attended school during the year.

Males	15	Males	29
Females	8	Females	20
Total No.	23	Total No.	40

(This would make 23 from Woodson and 17 from Greenwood counties.)

Number of months school has been taught, three months by Mr. R. W. Richardson.

Amount expended for teachers wages, \$90.

*This is 18 days September 1864*

*E. Kellogg District Clerk*

The town of Toronto was organized in 1869, but there was a building along the west side of the townsite that had been there for at least eleven years before the town was started. This was a log building built for a schoolhouse around 1858. The area along the Verdigris River both above and below where Toronto was built was thickly settled along in 1857-58, and the need for the school was great as this clerk's report for 1864 shows.

After the town was organized the schoolhouse was moved to the Public Square and enlarged. In 1882 a new schoolhouse was built at a cost of \$3000.00. This school would accommodate 200 pupils.

In 1881, a lady named Spangler taught the school. In 1882-83, it became a two teacher school with A. J. Jones and Josie Byington as teachers. In October term of 1883-84 it became a three teacher school with J. A. Van Landingham, W.P. Dickerson and Henry Prichard as teachers.

In 1885 it was a four teacher with J. A. Van Landingham, H.G. Lamb, Nellie Stewart, Addie Stewart and W.A. Dawson both taught in 1886. That is as far as we went with the teachers.

The high school at Toronto was disbanded about 1868. With the students west of this line going to Eureka and the ones east of this line going to Yates Center.

The Kindergarten and up to the sixth grade going to the Toronto school.

# Hardings honored for 'untiring service'

Lester Harding, author and local historian, and his wife Edith, were honored Saturday night by the Woodson County Historical Society at the Woodson House.

The historical group, of which Harding had been an original founder and had served as its president for the past 12 years, served dinner to more than 90 members and guests and afterwards "roasted" Harding.

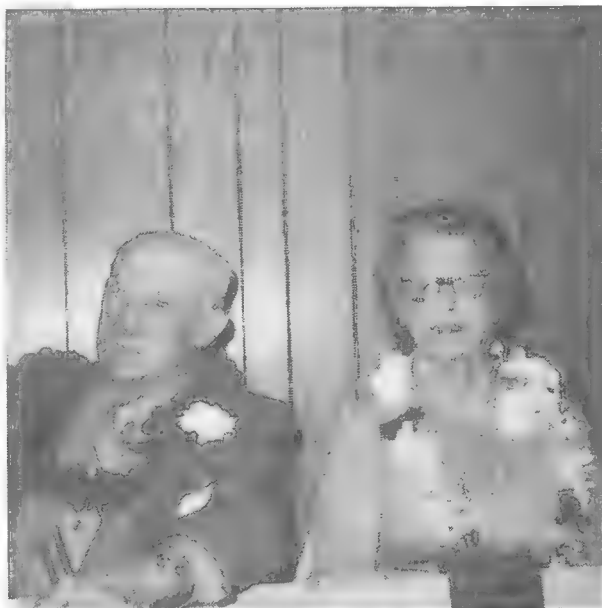
In addition to being hailed as a strong leader and the "nuts and bolts" of the 16-year-old historical society, Harding was also praised for his diligence in publishing "In the Beginning," a quarterly publication that records the history of the Woodson County area. The first

publication was printed in 1968.

Toasts were given to Harding from several friends in attendance and letters were read from people as far away as London, England and from the State Historical Society, as well as from friends nearby who were unable to attend.

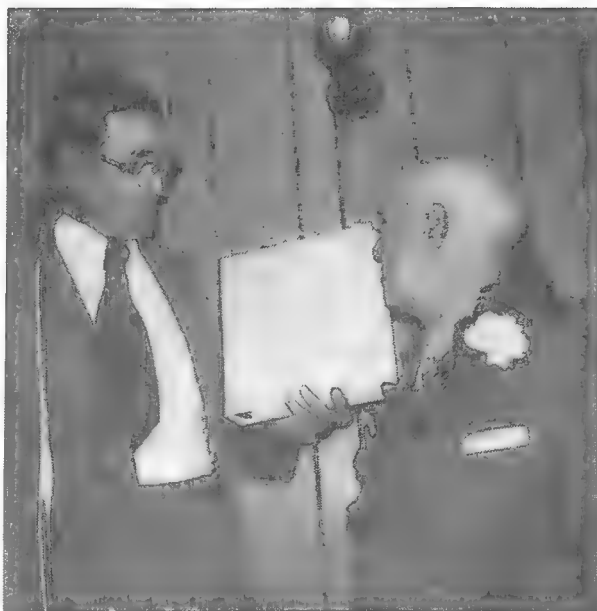
Harding recently stepped down as the society's president and will now serve as a member of the board of directors.

In addition to his work with the quarterly and with the quarterly publication, Harding has written a historical column for the Yates Center News for the past 44 years. The column is presently under the title, "Prairie Life."



Lester A. and Edith Harding





Kenneth Stockebrand presenting  
"This Is Your Life", to L. Harding.

# Prairie Life

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## Lester A. Harding

Edith and myself received several surprises Saturday evening, March 21, 1981, as the Woodson County Historical Society, met on an off night. This was the first time since its beginning that the writer has not officiated in some manner at the head table. We thought we could "breeze through" this one fairly easy. But we were seated at the head table and before we hardly knew what was going on we found out this was one of those "This Is Your Life" affairs with my name printed on the front of a large book, "Lester A. Harding."

There were over 92 present for the meal and program that followed. Betty Collins, the new vice-president, acted as secretary. Esther Lewis, the regular secretary, is still on a vacation

trip to Florida and Louisiana. Perhaps the main purpose of the party was the gathering of historical material of the county by the writer starting first under "Prairie Life" and then "In the Beginning" after the Woodson County Historical Society was formed.

Several speakers told what they knew of the writer and his work, (and some more or less guessed at it). It was all in fun anyway.

One of the largest surprises was when our family was there, daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

It was not only a great occasion but we believe that everyone there had a good time. It was an event that we will never forget. The large book has letters from people that get "In the Beginning" from all over the United States and even London, England.

## Yates Center News, March 1935 - 50 Years Ago —

Grant Naylor who has a perchance for dates and events was in the office early Monday morning when the thermometer stood 12 above zero, and showed us a record he has for last February on the 26th the thermometer register 6 below zero. We forget these things until a record is pulled on us.

Harry Perry, for many years in the furniture and undertaking business in Yates Center committed suicide, in his home in Manhattan, February 26, 1935 by shooting himself with a revolver. He had been in business here from 1928 until 1936.

Lou Stockebrand, manager of the Farmers Elevator shipped a car load of hay to his firm in Omaha, and had this firm relay the shipment to China along with a shipment of mules. This is perhaps the first Woodson County hay to go to China.

Spot Cash Store visited by hijacker Saturday night while Harvey Reep was along in the Spot Cash Store Saturday night. Harvey had \$18.00 in his pocket as his father had just taken the money home. The bandit expressed his disappointment because of no more money.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Leland Morris, a daughter Leah Charlene, February 28, 1935.

## MARCH 1935 —

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Englebrecht, a daughter, March 4, 1935.

At a simple service, solemnized by Gary Gary, Pastor of the Christian Church, Miss Flossie McDaniel and Emory Duffied were united in marriage on Sunday, at the home of the bride's father, O. S. McDaniel.

A new grocery has opened on the east side by an old time grocer, Bill Depew.

Ray Butler bought the F. J. Randall property on south Kalida and will move there the first of April.

They say that the following silly sentence contains all the letters in the alphabet, "A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." If you have nothing else to do try it sometime.

Mr. L. M. McCormick, Miss Helene O'Donnell and Mrs. Julia McCormick were in lola Saturday visiting relatives.

Mrs. Grace Reed left Sunday for Roger to make her home with her daughter, Elsie (Mrs. Byron Hamilton.)

## JOHN C. ROBSON —

John, better known as Jack was born at Yates Center, his parents were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robson. He was born May 15, 1889. He grew up in Yates Center and was a graduate of the Yates Center High School in the class of 1914. Frank Robson had married Anna Hampton. Besides John they had a son Hale who married Ruth Willaby.

In 19, 1914, John C. was married to Miss Viva Augustine. They were the parents of four children, John C. Jr., Helen Vincent Chambers, Elizabeth (Mrs. Paul Meader), Jean (Mrs. Bill Young). Twelve grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

The oil field was being developed in the northwest part of the county. The O.P.R. - Oklahoma, Producing and Refining Co. started drilling in the southwest corner of the Winterschied Ranch, later to be called the Winterschied Field. Jack Robson got a job there as a carpenter, although he said all he could do was drive nails. He and his wife moved in a small house on the Winterschied Ranch. This was in 1920. There was also a larger oil field house on the ranch.

The foreman Harry Patterson asked Jack to move into the larger house as there would be more men coming to work as more wells were drilled in that vicinity. When Jack and his wife moved into the larger house that was to be a boarding house there was only one man that stayed there. As the oil fields around them were being drilled it was not long until Mrs. Robson was cooking and putting up lunches for 19 men. After about four years of this, Jack was given a pumping job.

This lease later became the Pure Oil Camp with several houses being built for the workers.

Viva's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Augustine. Mr. Augustine became the roadmaster for the MOP railroad in this area. They had several children; Viva, Fred and Ruth who was a well known teacher of the Yates Center schools.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jack Robson started working in the Winterscheid oil field almost from the start. The writer grew up about six miles from that oil field and at night we could count around 18 to 20 rigs that rather lit up the sky.

After this field was fairly well settled some of the workers were transferred to around Hominy, Oklahoma. Jack was one of these. He stayed there until January 1, 1859, after working for the oil company for 39 years and five months.



**Viva and John (Jack) Robson - Picture taken on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married over 60 years.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Jack was a great basket and football fan of the Yates Center Wildcats. The past two years when he was 87 and 88 he never missed a basketball game of either the boys or girls. At the start of the boys games they would come to the center of the court when their names were called but did not stop at the center but ran across to the other side to shake hands with 'ol Jack. It was quite an honor for him. He was presented a Yates Center Wildcat stadium cushion by the teams for his faithful attendance and the rooting for their team.

Mr. Robson only missed one football game in the past two years.

### The Briles Family —

While there were many families of the Briles family mostly coming to the southern part of Coffey and the northern part Woodson, this story just deals with one of the many families. We hope we can tell about more of them in a short time. This story deals with a part of the seventh generation, starting with the sixth generation. Noah and Sarah Briles, who were both born in Randolph County, North Carolina, Noah was born in 1840 and Sarah was born in 1830. Of their children we will tell about Edward Grant Briles.

Edward G. Briles was married in Coffey Co. to Miss Frances Artlisa Ricketts. Their children were all born in Coffey Co. where the family lived until moving to the old Phelps farm, eight miles north and a mile east of Yates Center, in 1908.

The children of Edward and Artlisa were all born in Coffey County and were as follows:

Osmond Edward Briles born June 2, 1891, died 195-. He married Pauline Mentzer, Oct. 9, 1915. Pauline was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mentzer. Children were: Walter, born Aug. 7, 1917, Kenneth born Aug. 8, 1918. Died when about a year old. Letha Marie Briles Doolittle, born Sept. 14, 1924. Roberta Adell Briles Crawford, born June 29, 1930. Barbara Ann Briles Thompson, born Aug. 22, 1934. Ethel Briles Smith-Darby, born June 2, 1893. Glenn Briles, born March 6, 1895. Married Marcia Ruth Lynn, April 19, 1919. They had one daughter, Mary Frances, born Dec. 25, 1922.

Lulu Belle Briles, born Nov. 2, 1899. On April 18, 1923 Lulu was married to Mr. Judge Cope, who was born on his parents homestead, April 18, 1888. They had no children.

Before her marriage Lulu taught several terms of school in the rural schools of the county. Besides farming Judge Cope ran a threshing machine especially over the northwest part of the county and was road man for North Twp.

For many years Osmond Briles operated a moving picture business along the main street in Emporia.

Glenn Briles spent most of his life farming. He also worked several years for the city of Yates Center on the street department.

Alexander Briles and his wife Sarah, and a cousin Bronson Briles and wife Dorcus were the leaders of this large group of Briles that came here in 1857. Sarah and Dorcus were sisters. Alexander settled in Coffey and Bronson in Woodson County -both on Turkey Creek with the county line between them.



**Top row: (Left to right) Osmond E., Edward G., and Glenn Briles.  
Bottom row: (Left to right) Ethel Briles Smith-Darby, Lu Lu Belle, and Frances  
Artlisa.**





**DAVID ASKREN**

During our 45 years of writing we have never had a picture of David Askren until now. The Askren Cemetery and Askren School Dist. 2 were named after these folks. The first items we ever wrote were Askren and vicinity.

We had intended to write more about the Askren family in this issue but we find that we have run out of time and space. We wrote quite a bit about this family in the April, 1968 issue. That was the second one of the "In The Beginning", but then we had no pictures nor as much as they had to do with the settling and the pioneer life as we have now.

This picture was taken by Askren and Baldwin, Traveling Photo Artists. The Askren was Isaac Askren whom we believe to be a brother of David's, although David's father was also named Isaac.

## HARRIET SARAH HAWKINS —

We have written a great deal about the Askren School and the teachers. We had been told that the first teacher in the log schoolhouse was Sarah Hawkins, "who lived over on the river". But that was all we knew about her until later. She sometimes signed her name as Sarah H. Graves. She was born along the Verdigris River between Virgil and Quincey. Her parents were James and America Hawkins, who came to near Virgil in April, 1857. He was buried in the Virgil Cemetery, 1881.

America Stevens was born in 1807, near Paris, Kentucky. Her mother was a niece of Gov. Garrod of Kentucky, died the same day. Her father Joseph Stevens gave her to a relative, who moved to Hardin, Co., Kentucky, while she was still an infant, and she never knew of her father afterwards.

When America was about 16 years old she was married to Hawkins, who in a few years moved to Indiana. In 1856, Mrs. Hawkins with her husband started to the state of Texas. They stopped at Fayetteville, Arkansas, during the winter and in the spring of 1857 concluded to settle in Kansas, and moved to Greenwood County and settled along the Verdigris River.



AMERICA HAWKINS-

When Harriet Sarah Hawkins started teaching at the Askren, Dist. No. 2, in the log schoolhouse the first school clerk of the school was the teacher's future father-in-law, Pusey Graves. Her husband-to-be, had just returned from over three years and one month of service in Co. F of the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. We will give some of his adventures with other friends from Turkey Creek, perhaps in the next issue.



**Hattie S. Hawkins**  
**Graduate KSNS - Emporia**

The picture on left shows Harriet Sarah Hawkins as a graduate from State Normal School, Emporia about 1870, when she was Validictorian.

After her graduation from Emporia, she evidently came back to Woodson County and to Neosho Falls to teach some more. She graduated with the fourth graduation of this school. Her commencement folder of which we have a copy is almost completely covered with notes she made of other speakers. Her topic was:

"Kansas expects every teacher to do his duty."

Sarah H. Hawkins, Virgil, Greenwood County

About two years later she was married to Charles B. Graves.

## CHARLES B. GRAVES —

In a later issue we will tell about Charles B. Graves adventures during the Civil War, but in this one we will tell about his life after being discharged from the army. After entering several different business ventures with an army buddy, Isaac O. Pickering whose address was also Turkey Creek, he came back to Woodson County and did some sharecropping with a brother-in-law he decided to become a lawyer. "The fact that I never had looked into a law book, and did not know Blackstone from Josephus made no difference." It was in 1867 that he was elected as Justice of the Peace. He was elected but found out that only seven votes had been cast for that office and he received five of them. During his first case in Burlington he decided that being a lawyer was better financial than raising corn, hauling rock, haying or running a sawmill.

In the spring of 1869 after a stringent oral examination in open court he was admitted to the Bar of the State of Kansas.

"Bought a few law books with the money I had left and returned to the farm and ran that until fall (his father's farm along Turkey Creek.) When I went to Leavenworth on a visit, while there I was induced to teach school. I went home in the spring again and ran the farm again. "Father as Probate Judge was kept at the County Seat practically all of the time. In the fall of 1870 I went to Neosho Falls and began my law business.

In 1871, I made my first appearance as a Fourth of July Orator. During that year I was appointed Justice of the Peace and was kept busy and was soon able to have a bank account.

Charles B. Graves and Sarah Harriet Hawkins were married in November, 1872, at Neosho Falls and moved in a small house that Graves had just purchased. They were the parents of seven children. Orlin, Stella, Hugh, Scott, Ina, Roscoe and an infant boy that died at birth.

Charles Graves recalled in a letter, "In 1874 the grasshoppers came, the county seat left Neosho Falls, and business left also. In 1875 I moved to Burlington and went into partnership with a lawyer there. In 1876 was elected County Attorney of Coffey Co. and also attorney for Burlington. In 1880 was elected Judge of the District Court that consisted of four counties. In 1883 I moved into Emporia to be in the center of my district and was Judge there until 1893.



*Charles B. Graves*  
COUNTY ATTORNEY.



**Sarah H. Hawkins-Graves**  
These pictures were taken  
in later years, evidently  
while living in Emporia.

Both Charles B. and his wife Sarah H. Graves are buried in Emporia. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Graves moved to Topeka to live, later moving to San Diego, California at the home of one of her children.

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We had always been curious about the young lady who became the first teacher in the log schoolhouse known as District No. 2. We also read where she became the wife of Charles B. Graves whose parents had lived in that district. It was in September, 1980 that a couple, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Markham, of Monroe, Michigan stopped at our house and sent us most of the information for this story and others to come. We learned much about Pusey Graves who moved into Woodson County in 1859. He first stopped along Duck Creek in the north part of the county but we have not found just where.

## PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto	Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Milton & Virginia Schornick	Daylight Donut Shop
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand	Edwin H. Bideau Associated
John V. Glades Agency	Agency, Chanute
Street Abstract Co., Inc.	First National Bank, Toronto
State Exchange Bank	Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.
Self Service Grocery	Yates Center Elevator
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods	Jasper's Shopping Spot
HiWay Food Basket	Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent
Piqua Farmers Co-op	Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Gaulding Oil Co.	Atkin Clinic
Donald E. Ward	Daly Western Supply
Morton Equipment Co.	Jaynes Insurance Agency
Swope & Son Implement Co.	Jerry's Oil Co.
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.	Linde Barber Shop
The Herring Families	House of Fabrics
Clyde Hill	Milton & Marcella Wrampe
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick	E. E. Light
Lawrence Flower Shop	Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Virgil & Iris Winfrey	Campbell Funeral Home
Roger Bros. Garage	Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Artex Manufacturing Co.	Piqua State Bank
J. C. Schnell	Thomas Wilson
Gambles Hardware & Home	Ken Kimbell
Furnishings	Al's Jewelry
Glen Shaw	Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO
Stainer's Sundries	Rex Butler, Nashville, TN
Wilma Mark	Bill Herman
Yates Center News	
Peter D. Palmour, London England	
Pringle Ranch, J. Richard Pringle	



